

ICAEW Birmingham and West Midlands President's Annual report 2020/2021

The last 12 months have been very challenging for our members as the pandemic took force from March last year. As a District Society of ICAEW we have also seen our plans change over the period.

Normally, we would have run a number of events and activities for members to network and learn face to face. During the last 12 months, we have taken much of this activity online through a range of local, regional and national webinars and discussion groups. This transition has enabled us to deliver more activities to our members than in 2019 and contributed to an increase in the number of local members engaging with us. Many of these activities are retained in our on-demand library for members to view at a later date when unable to attend the live activity.

As we come out of pandemic restrictions, we fully intend to not only continue with an online programme but to bring back physical events where suitable. We have regularly run quarterly networking events (recent ones were at a number of the tech accelerators present in the city) as well as CPD and we fully expect these to start to return towards the end of 2021. I especially look forward to the early career members reboot that will complement the online activities for this cohort of our membership already in operation.

District Societies are unique to ICAEW and have their origins in the formation of ICAEW in the 1870s. Our role is to foster engagement and act as a bridge between local members and the activities and support of ICAEW in Moorgate. Its purpose is to serve you as members and so if there are any events or activities you would like us to arrange for you, please let us know and we will endeavour to deliver them.

Some of the objectives for 2021/2022 are as follows:

- The formation of an early career members forum to promote engagement with our members and provide opportunities to network and learn.
- Restore the quarterly networking events as further opportunities to engage with fellow members and your local committee.
- Continue our online webinars, especially to our members in business who perhaps find it challenging to attend face to face events but can reach online events.
- Collaborate with our neighbouring district societies to bring more events to you that you find useful such as economic summits and the latest developments from the Bank of England.
- Following on from COP26 later this year, help promote ICAEW's sustainability and climate change activity to make the world a better place for future generations.

Keep safe and well.

Andrew Coulson
President